

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and enhanced economic and environmental benefits; and,

Whereas, Noxious weeds infest over 3.8 million acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland, and wild areas, and every noxious weed-infested acre means lost revenue and additional production costs to our agricultural producers; and,

Whereas, Statewide, loss in agricultural production due to noxious weed infestation is over \$140 million, with the direct economic impact of noxious weed infestation at nearly \$80 million; and,

Whereas, For every \$1.00 spent to control statewide noxious weeds, there is a \$1.35 return in increased agricultural production; and,

Whereas, Noxious weeds jeopardize the health of the land and the native flora and fauna living on the land; and,

Whereas, Loss of habitat to noxious weeds is one of the major contributors to the decline of native species; and,

Whereas, Noxious weeds displace threatened and endangered species habitat, and new noxious weed infestations are being found across the state; and,

Whereas, Budgets are being stretched and control efforts are being curtailed because of economic restrictions, but South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat; and,

Whereas, Without the continued support of our citizens, we threaten the use and enjoyment of our state's landscape:

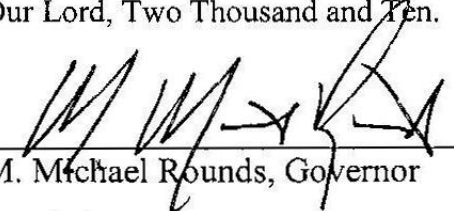
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2010 as

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to join me in this effort to avoid the loss of use and enjoyment of our precious land.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State